

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 AID-05 OMB-01 /079 W

-----068876 040930Z /10

R 022107Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3180

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 2233

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, EAID, PA

SUBJECT: REACTION TO OPPOSITION LEADER'S STATEMENT IN US

REFS A) ASUNCION 2169 B) ASUNCION 2135

1. THE ANGRY PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST RADICAL/LIBERAL LEADER DOMINGO LAINO HAS BEGUN TO SUBSIDE. IT NOW CONSISTS MAINLY OF ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE NEWSPAPERS, PAID FOR BY VARIOUS COLORADO PARTY ORGANIZATIONS, AND WE ARE TOLD THESE ARE PROGRAMMED TO CONTINUE INTO THE WEEK OF JUNE 4. THESE ADVERTISEMENTS ARE RABID AND CALL FOR ACTION AGAINST LAINO FOR TREASON UNDER PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION. BOTH HOUSES OF THE LEGISLATURE PASSED CONDEMNATORY RESOLUTIONS AGAINST LAINO JUNE 1. HOWEVER, NEITHER OF THEM CALLED FOR ANY PUNITIVE ACTION AGAINST HIM AND WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY OFFICIAL SOURCES THAT NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST HIM WHEN HE RETURNS TO PARAGUAY.

2. WE HAVE HEARD FROM VARIOUS SOURCES THAT MANY IN THE GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING THE HIGHEST LEVELS, BELIEVE THE VITUPERATIVE ANTI-LAINO PRESS CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN AN OVER-REACTION WHICH HAS MERELY SERVED TO INCREASE LAINO'S STATURE WHILE ACCOMPLISHING LITTLE OR NOTHING. A MORE REASONED APPROACH EMERGED IN AN EDITORIAL IN THE COLORADO PARTY DAILY, "PATRIA", JUNE 2. "PATRIA", WHICH HAD LED THE WAY IN NAME-CALLING EARLIER IN THE

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WEEK, CALMLY LISTED LOANS COMING FROM AID, THE IDB AND THE WORLD BANK. THE EDITORIAL ARGUED THAT THESE LOANS WERE ALL DIRECTED TOWARD IMPROVING THE LOT OF THE POORER PARAGUAYANS AND NOT, AS LAINO HAD CLAIMED, MERELY PROPS FOR THE "STROESSNER DICTATORSHIP", AN APPELATION NOT ACCEPTED BY THE EDITORIAL WRITER.

3. THE PARAGUAYAN REACTION IN THIS MATTER BRINGS OUT CLEARLY

THE GOP'S EXTREME SENSITIVITY TO USG "NO" VOTES ON LOANS FROM INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. IT ALSO DEMONSTRATES THE IMPORTANCE THE GOP ATTACHES TO MAINTAINING AID RELATIONSHIPS WITH THESE ORGANIZATIONS.

4. THE FUROR OVER LAINO HAS ONCE AGAIN FOCUSSED THE SPOTLIGHT ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE COLORADO PARTY ITSELF PLANS TO HOLD A SERIES OF SEMINARS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, BEGINNING JUNE 5, TO BE ADDRESSED BY SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT INCLUDING THE FOREIGN MINISTER, BEST DEMONSTRATES THE EXTENT TO WHICH HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE BECOME A MAJOR TOPIC OF DISCUSSION HERE.  
KAY

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS, POLITICAL LEADERS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, ALLEGATIONS, DEVELOPMENT LOANS  
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**Subject:** REACTION TO OPPOSITION LEADER'S STATEMENT IN US  
**TAGS:** SHUM, EAID, SOPN, PA, (LAINO, DOMINGO)  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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